IDEA-0340
Cy 2 of 2

8 June 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR:  Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT          :  Reviewing Photo Coverage Requirements in
                    a Static Situation

1.  I feel that the current requirement for weekly U-2 coverage
of Cuba, primarily for CINCLANT, has placed the Agency in a very
undesirable position with regard to utilization of U-2 assets.  In the
past, concrete justification was advanced prior to each mission and
was the basis on which approval was solicited from "higher authority."
The CINCLANT requirement is essentially a surveillance type of
mission, each of which has little reference to the information gathered
on previous missions.  In accepting this Cuba-type operation, the
following compromises ensue:

    a.  The premise that the U-2 mission is to obtain intelligence
data of highest interest to the U.S. Government becomes suspect.

    b.  The long period of building up confidence since 1 May
1960 may be lost if an aircraft should make an emergency
landing, thus creating a reluctance to grant approval for higher
priority missions.  This type of mission may be considered an
undue exposure when compared with higher priority requirements.

    c.  Service maneuvering in committing the Edwards unit to
a long-term project in several places gives justification for DOD
U-2 participation in overflights.

    d.  We will never be able to satisfy a "currency" requirement
by repeating missions.

2.  In an attempt to get the IDEALIST project off this treadmill,
I have requested Mr. Reber to include in his next request for over-
flight authority a priority listing of COMOR areas of interest, including

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the USSR. Cuba should appear on the list in such a position as to once
again bring the entire intelligence picture into focus and at the same
time re-emphasize the great capability and importance of judicious
utilization of U-2 aircraft.

3. We are preparing to fly this Cuba request Friday, 9 June,
per 5412 Group approval granted 11 May for weekly coverage.

(Signed) Stanley W. Beerli

STANLEY W. BEERLI
Colonel, USAF
Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P


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